Amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title and before the next line, insert the following section:

Q2

-- Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 09/186,573, filed November 5, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,159,237, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 5,843,117 that issued from application Serial No. 08/599,880, filed February 14, 1996, each of which is assigned to the same assignee as the present application. --

Page 1, line 11, delete "to" (first occurrence).

Page 8, line 3, change "said" to -- the --; line 19, delete the period (.) after "annealed".

Page 14, line 8, change "is" to -- are --.

Page 25, lines 10 and 12, change "**20**" to -- **22** -- (both places).

Page 26, line 5, between "cluster" and "of", insert -- **27** --;

line 6, between "struts" and "are", insert -- **28** --.

Page 27, line 1, between "elements" and "**35**", insert -- or struts --;

line 5, delete "that".

Page 28, line 5, between "the" and "openings", insert -- flattened, closed, substantially

Q3

oval-shaped –;

Q4

line 8, between "rib" and "**38**", insert -- or curvilinear strut -- .

Page 35, line 5, between the end parenthesis ()) and the comma (,), insert -- as

Q5

illustrated by exaggerated bulbous or distended ends **66** and **69** of the balloon shown in phantom --.

Page 36, line 12, change "are" to -- or -- .

Page 37, line 1, change "balloon" to -- stent --; same line, delete "is";

line 20, between "reference" and "analogous", insert -- to --.

Page 38, line 2, change "**8**" to -- **9** --.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-60 before calculating the filing fee for this application.

Add the following new claims:

61 -- 93. A vascular or endoluminal stent adapted for deployment in a vessel or tract of a patient to maintain an open lumen therein, comprising a scaffold formed from a single open-ended tube having a multiplicity of through-holes in the wall thereof defined by a plurality of struts bounding said through-holes; each of said struts having an optimized cross-section of oval shape to enhance flexibility of the stent, ease advancement of the stent through a lumen of the vessel or tract for deployment at a target site therein, protect the balloon of a balloon catheter when the stent is tightly crimped thereon, and enhance expansion of the stent during deployment while maintaining its capability to withstand compression in response to recoil of the wall of the vessel or tract following deployment.

62 94. The stent of claim **93**, wherein said through-holes are laser cut from said tube.